

Central America, and *Trinomys* occupies the same position within the Mata Atlantica of coastal Brazil. *Holochilus* is widely distributed throughout the moist grasslands and forests of South America and is a major pest in many agricultural areas. While species boundaries in each taxon may still be insecure, and new species continue to be described, the generic assignments for each of these has not been in doubt for the last 80 years or longer.

The proposal in Case 3121 thus represents a simple solution that would maintain a stability in usage of long-standing and preserve the effective communication now present across a wide range of biological disciplines. I urge the Commission to accept this proposal.

Comments on the proposed conservation of *Cervus gouazoubira* Fischer, 1814 (currently *Mazama gouazoubira*; Mammalia, Artiodactyla) as the correct original spelling

(Case 3018; see BZN 56: 262–265)

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I fully support A.L. Gardner's application to conserve the current spelling of the specific name of the brown brocket deer, which has almost universally been known as *Mazama gouazoubira* (Fischer, 1814) for many years.

As information retrieval from the scientific literature becomes increasingly dependent on computer searches, capricious spelling changes of taxon names are serious threats to effective communication among researchers. No purpose is served by reverting to Fischer's original spelling.

(2) Peter Grubb

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I write to support Gardner's proposal that the name *Mazama gouazoubira* should be used for the brown brocket, even though the original name was *Cervus gouazoupira* Fischer, 1814.

It is appropriate to present some additional background information concerning this case. There has hitherto been a mood to establish or maintain the original spelling as the valid species-group name even when it has not been generally employed in the literature. Other examples occur in Wilson & Reeder (1993): *Neotragus pygmeus* (from *Capra pygmaea* Linnaeus, 1758) replaced *N. pygmaeus*; and *Funisciurus pyrropus* (from *Sciurus pyrropus* F. Cuvier, 1833) replaced *F. pyrrhopus*. Further cases where the generally accepted spelling has recently been replaced by the original one are *Pudu pudu* (from *Capra puda* Molina, 1782; not *P. pudu*; see Hershkovitz, 1982, p. 60) and *Galagoides demidoff* (from *Galago demidoff* Fischer, 1806; not *G. demidovii*; see Jenkins, 1987, p. 98). Attempts to restore the 'incorrect' *Felis lybica* to *F. libyca* or *Naemorhedus* to *Nemorhaedus* (see Ellerman & Morrison-Scott, 1951, p. 304 and amendment sheet) have not proved wholly acceptable. I believed that I was following a trend (Grubb in Wilson & Reeder, 1993) by treating

Mazama gouazoubira as an incorrect subsequent spelling and *M. gouazoupira* (Fischer, 1814) as the correct original spelling, though I would agree that this was not a positive contribution to stability. However, until recently there was no procedure to conserve a preferred emendation other than by appealing to the Commission. This Gardner has now done, and very clearly. He should be supported.

The new Code (4th Edition), laying clearer emphasis on stability, renders these exercises unnecessary in the future by providing a firm distinction between a nomen oblitum and a nomen protectum (Article 23.9); between the original but almost universally rejected or ignored spelling and the generally accepted spelling. One will no longer see the unsupported statement that an original spelling is a lapsus in such examples as the following: *Tadarida teniotis rueppellii* (*Dysopes rüppelii* Temminck, 1826), *Callicebus brunneus* (*Callithrix brunea* Wagner, 1842), *Procolobus badius temminckii* (*Colobus temminckii* Kuhl, 1820), *Vulpes rueppellii* (*Canis rüppelii* Schinz, 1825), *Hendecapleura* (*Endecapleura* Lataste, 1882), and *Myomyscus verreauxi* (*Mus verroxii* A. Smith, 1834). These emendations are likely to be nomina protecta. Perhaps it is worth indicating that a correction to spelling in itself is not necessarily going to become a nomen protectum: Rosevear's (1969, p. 201) emendation of *Tatera welmanni* (*Taterona welmanni* St Leger, 1929) to *T. welmani* on the grounds that the taxon was named after J.B. Welman has not been supported in the literature, and there is no move to emend *Equis chapmani* Layard, 1865, named after J. Chapman. Clear distinctions must be made between (a) misspelled names whose status has not been challenged and which should remain valid; (b) neglected original spellings whose restoration has not been challenged; (c) widely used emendations which become nomina protecta under the new Code; and (d) rational emendations which have not been adopted in the literature and therefore remain unjustified.

Additional references

- Ellerman, J.R. & Morrison-Scott, T.C.S. 1951. *Checklist of Palaearctic and Indian mammals 1758 to 1946*. 810 pp. British Museum, London.
- Hershkovitz, P. 1982. Neotropical deer (Cervidae). Part 1. *Pudus*, genus *Pudu* Gray. *Fieldiana Zoology*, **11**: 1–86.
- Jenkins, P.D. 1987. *Catalogue of Primates in the British Museum (Natural History) and elsewhere in the British Isles*, part 4 (Suborder Strepsirrhini). 189 pp. British Museum (Natural History), London.
- Rosevear, D.R. 1969. *The rodents of West Africa*. 604 pp. British Museum (Natural History), London.

Comment on the proposed conservation of LORISIDAE Gray, 1821 and GALAGIDAE Gray, 1825 (Mammalia, Primates) as the correct original spellings
(Case 3004; see BZN **55**: 165–168; **56**: 73; **57**: 51)

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